

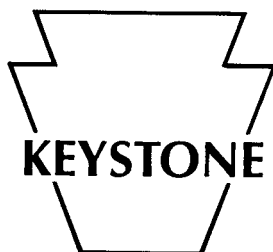


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The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address:

www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm

2004 FRUIT PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania's utilized apple production is estimated at 400 million pounds, down 42 million pounds from last year's crop. There were 22,500 bearing acres of apples in Pennsylvania in 2004. The preliminary farm level value of the crop was \$45.64 million. Pennsylvania ranks fourth nationally in apple production. The United States' utilized production is estimated at 9.928 billion pounds from 386,490 acres.

Pennsylvania tart cherry production was 3.0 million pounds from 800 bearing acres. The yield per bearing acre was 3,750 pounds, down from 4,880 in 2003. The preliminary farm level value was \$1.06 million. Nationally, there was 213 million pounds of tart cherries utilized from 36,950 acres. Pennsylvania ranks sixth nationally in the production of tart cherries. Pennsylvania produced 350 utilized tons of sweet cherries in 2004. The preliminary farm level value of sweet cherries was \$1.04 million. Pennsylvania ranks ninth nationally in the production of sweet cherries.

Utilized peach production in the Commonwealth was 22,700 tons from 4,500 acres. The preliminary farm level value of the crop was \$16.1 million. Nationally, 1.23 million tons were utilized from 146,300 acres. Utilized pear production in the Commonwealth was 4,400 tons from 900 acres. The preliminary value of the crop was \$2.5 million. Nationally, 888,400 tons were utilized from 64,700.

Pennsylvania grape production in 2004 was 80,000 tons from 12,000 acres. The preliminary farm level value was \$30.1 million. There were 71,700 tons of Concord and 3,600 tons of Niagaras processed. There were 6,500 tons of grapes processed for wine.

2004 VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania's vegetable farmers harvested 19,600 acres of sweet corn for fresh market in 2004 with production totaling 1,392,000 cwt. This is 19 percent more than the 2003 production for fresh market. Average value of fresh market sweet corn was \$22.10 per cwt., \$2.80 per cwt. less than the price received in 2003. Production for processed sweet corn amounted to 7,990 tons, an increase of 101 percent from 2003's production. The average value for processed sweet corn increased from \$85.90 per ton in 2003 to \$94.20 per ton in 2004.

Nationally, 246,200 acres of sweet corn was harvested for fresh market in 2004 and 405,800 acres were harvested for processing. Fresh market production totaled 29.1 million cwt. and was valued at \$21.30 per cwt. Processing production totaled 2.97 million tons in 2004 with an average value of \$72.10 per ton. Forty-nine percent of the processing production was utilized for canning and 51 percent was for freezing.

Pennsylvania's 2004 fresh market tomato production was estimated at 555,000 cwt., up 26 percent from 2003. Area harvested was 3,700 acres. The average value was \$29.50 per cwt. United States' production of fresh market tomatoes was 36.1 million cwt. in 2004, a 1.5 percent increase from 2003. Area harvested was 126,400 acres. Average value of tomatoes for fresh market was \$37.20 per cwt.

In Pennsylvania, 13,500 acres of snap beans were harvested for processing in 2004. Total production was 46,760 tons with an average value of \$217.00 per ton. At the U.S. level, 198,400 acres of snap beans were harvested for processing in 2004. Total production increased from 727,640 in 2003, to 823,540 tons in 2004. Canning utilized 561,260 tons of the production. Average value increased from \$157.00 per ton in 2003 to \$160.00 in 2004.

Pennsylvania's strawberry production, harvested from 1,300 acres for fresh market and processing was 79,000 cwt., down 5 percent from 2003. Average value per cwt. was \$137.00. The U.S. strawberry production in 2004 was 22.1 million cwt., up 2.7 percent from 2003. Acreage harvested was 51,600; the average value per cwt. was \$66.50.

Pennsylvania's 2004 fresh market cabbage production was estimated at 399,000 cwt. Area harvested was 1,900 acres. The average value was \$10.10 per cwt. Pennsylvania's cantaloupe production for fresh market was 99,000 cwt. Total acreage harvested was 1,100. The average value per cwt. was \$24.40 in 2004. Nationally, 75,850 acres of cabbage were harvested for fresh market in 2004. Fresh market production totaled 25.0 million cwt. and was valued at \$14.00 per cwt. U.S. fresh market cantaloupe production totaled 20.3 million cwt. in 2004 with an average value of \$14.80 per cwt. There were 89,950 acres harvested.

Pennsylvania's 2004 fresh market and processed pumpkin production was estimated at 1,360,000 cwt. Area harvested was 8,500 acres. The average value was \$12.40 per cwt. Nationally, 45,100 acres of pumpkins were harvested for fresh market and processing in 2004. Total production was 9.98 million cwt. and was valued at \$10.00 per cwt.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, JANUARY 2005

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Jan 2004	Dec 2004	Jan 2005 ¹	Jan 2004	Dec 2004	Jan 2005 ¹
		Dollars					
Corn	Bu.	2.95	2.10	2.19	2.39	2.04	1.98
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	3.66	3.34	3.31
Oats	Bu.	1.98	1.72	1.65	1.48	1.56	1.51
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.69	2.47	2.37
Hay, Dry All	Ton	129.00	126.00	127.00	80.10	84.30	84.20
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	149.00	141.00	155.00	84.80	92.40	90.90
Dry Other	Ton	121.00	114.00	116.00	70.20	67.10	70.60
Apples, Fresh Use	Lb.	.191	.223	.230	.304	.223	.216
Potatoes	Cwt.	7.75	8.10	8.25	5.75	5.27	5.35
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	46.80	47.50	49.60	46.10	48.70	50.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	79.90	81.20	83.70	85.40	91.80	94.20
Calves	Cwt.	110.00	110.00	115.00	110.00	122.00	123.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	37.30	51.00	51.00	37.20	52.60	53.30
Sows	Cwt.	28.50	42.90	43.50	28.40	44.60	45.70
Eggs ³	Doz.	.800	.550	.380	.806	.488	.373
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	14.90	18.00	-	13.20	16.40	15.90
Manufactured Grade ...	Cwt.	12.70	17.40	-	12.30	16.00	14.70
All	Cwt.	14.90	18.00	17.90	13.20	16.40	15.90
Milk Cows ⁴	Head	1,350.00	-	1,600.00	1,390.00	-	1,620.00

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.).

JANUARY FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX **DOWN 1 POINT FROM LAST MONTH**

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January, at 110, based on 1990-92=100, is 1 point below the December index. The Crop Index is down 3 points (2.9 percent) from while the Livestock Index is up 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for broilers, cattle, oranges, and snap beans. Lower prices were received for tomatoes, dairy, eggs, and broccoli. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of cattle, corn, soybeans, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of grapes, dairy, tobacco, and cotton.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2 points (1.8 percent) from January 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 115, is 1 point (0.9 percent) below last month but 2 points (1.8 percent) above January 2004.

Food Grains: The January index, at 113, is unchanged from the previous month but 8.9 percent below a year ago. The January all wheat price, at \$3.42 per bushel, is up 3 cents from December but 26 cents below January 2004.

Feed Grains & Hay: The January index is 90, down 3.2 percent from last month and 14 percent below January 2004. The corn price, at \$1.98 per bushel, is down 6 cents from December but 41 cents below January 2004. The all hay price, at \$84.20 per ton, is 10 cents below December but \$4.10 above last January.

Livestock & Products: The January index, at 121, is up 0.8 percent from last month and up 10 percent from January 2004. Compared with a year ago, prices are higher for cattle, dairy, hogs, calves, and turkeys but lower for eggs. The broiler prices were unchanged.

Dairy Products: The January index, at 122, is down 3.2 percent from December but up 21 percent from January 2004. The January all milk price of \$15.90 per cwt is down \$0.50 from last month but up \$2.70 from December 2004. The fluid grade milk price is down \$0.50 and the manufactured grade milk price is down \$1.30 from the previous month.

SHEEP INVENTORY

All sheep and lamb inventory in Pennsylvania on January 1, 2005 totaled 100,000, up 11 percent from the previous year.

Total inventory included 63,000 breeding ewes one year old and older, up 9 percent from January 1, 2004. There were 15,000 replacement lambs, up 25 percent from last year. Rams one year old and older totaled 5,000, unchanged from a year ago. Market sheep and lambs totaled 17,000 on January 1, 2004, up 13 percent from last year. Of this total, 13,000 were market lambs and 4,000 were market sheep. The 2004 lamb crop of 84,000 head was up from 2003. The 2004 lambing rate was 145 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 2004, up from 130 lambs per 100 ewes the previous year.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2005, totaled 6.14 million head, up slightly from 2004, but 3 percent below two years ago. The inventory has leveled off and is showing a slight increase for the first time since 1990. Breeding sheep inventory increased to 4.53 million head on January 1, 2005, up 1 percent from 4.50 million head on January 1, 2004. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.57 million head, were 1 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2005, totaled 1.60 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2004. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-six percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 13 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 32 percent were over 105 pounds, and 5 percent were market sheep. The 2004 lamb crop of 4.10 million head, a record low, was down 1 percent from 2003. The 2004 lambing rate was 113 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2004, up 3 percent from 2003.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2004 was 37.6 million pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.07 million head, down slightly from 2003. The average price paid for wool sold in 2004 was \$0.80 per pound for a total value of \$29.9 million dollars, up 6 percent from \$28.1 million dollars in 2003.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS
DECEMBER 31, 2004

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 5,501,000 bushels on December 31, 2004, compared to 5,814,000 bushels on December 31, 2003. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 1,527,000; Rome with 1,201,000; and Golden Delicious with 1,150,000 bushels. Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 231,000,000 pounds on December 31, 2004, compared to 244,184,000 pounds on December 31, 2003. There were no pear stocks in Pennsylvania on December 31, 2004.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on December 31, 2004 were greater than year earlier levels for chicken, eggs, fruit, vegetables, pork, and beef. Butter stocks were down 9 percent from last month and down 48 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 7 percent from last month and up 11 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 11 percent from last month and up 3 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 67 percent from last month and up 16 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on December 31, 2004 were 4 percent below the previous month, but 5 percent above a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 5 percent from the previous month, but up 19 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 2 percent from last month and down 19 percent from December 31, 2003.

STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES

Commodity	Dec 31, 2003	Nov 30, 2004	Dec 31, 2004
	(000) Lbs.		
Butter	99,613	57,177	51,795
Cheese, Total Natural	724,386	704,251	700,232
Eggs, Frozen	18,036	17,324	19,583
Poultry, Total Frozen	966,703	1,064,635	1,018,686
Chicken	611,472	769,185	729,689
Turkeys	354,039	294,868	288,292
Fruits, Frozen	998,258	1,155,230	1,074,773
Fruit Juices, Frozen	1,895,360	1,755,498	1,768,010
Vegetables, Total Frozen	2,118,594	2,423,744	2,218,806
Potatoes, Total Frozen	1,120,418	1,219,345	1,069,071
Meats, Total Frozen	878,958	912,602	974,878
Beef, Total Frozen	395,084	463,297	479,584
Pork, Total Frozen	470,656	436,332	483,643

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, DECEMBER 2004

Variety	December 31, 2003					December 31, 2004				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	(1,000) Bushels									
York	4	14	1,178	561	1,757	5	4	875	643	1,527
Stayman	30	2	48	13	93	30	1	50	0	81
Rome	27	46	430	372	875	40	70	735	356	1,201
Red Delicious	156	301	79	108	644	100	281	100	60	541
Golden Delicious	53	120	821	682	1,676	30	139	470	511	1,150
Gala	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	20	2	2	34
McIntosh	20	0	19	0	39	10	4	8	11	33
Fuji	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1220	18	28	0	166
Other ²	79	101	446	104	730	100	90	407	171	768
Total	369	584	3,021	1,840	5,814	445	627	2,675	1,754	5,501

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. ² Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

APPLE & PEAR STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, PENNSYLVANIA & UNITED STATES, DECEMBER 30, 2004

Commodity	All Warehouse Stocks		
	December 31, 2003	November 30, 2004	December 31, 2004
PENNSYLVANIA	(1,000) Lbs.		
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	142,376	161,300	131,000
Controlled Atmosphere	101,808	98,700	100,000
Total Apples	244,184	260,000	231,000
PEARS:			
Bartletts	6	0	0
Other Varieties	680	1,170	0
Total Pears	686	1,170	0
UNITED STATES			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	613,139	1,184,744	869,113
Controlled Atmosphere	3,501,609	4,727,096	4,362,083
Total Apples	4,114,748	5,911,840	5,231,196
PEARS:			
Bartletts	17,893	23,506	6,573
Other Varieties	314,485	343,681	276,382
Total Pears	332,378	367,187	282,955

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Dec 2003	Nov 2004	Dec 2004	Dec 2003	Nov 2004	Dec 2004
Layers	Thous.	23,504	23,630	23,920	338,243	343,482	344,533
Eggs Per 100 Layers	Number	2,314	2,306	2,379	2,223	2,170	2,235
Eggs Produced	Million	544	545	569	7,520	7,455	7,699
Chick Hatch-Egg Type	Thous.	4,623	5,787	5,291	33,645	38,421	37,035
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	13,414	12,908	14,060	780,094	730,789	793,047
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	23,424	22,232	22,197

EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during December 2004 totaled 569 million eggs, up 5 percent from December 2003. The total number of layers on hand averaged 23.9 million during December, up 2 percent from the 23.5 million one year earlier. Production per 100 layers was 2,379 eggs during the month, compared with 2,314 eggs in December 2003.

Egg-type chicks hatched during December 2004 totaled 5.29 million, 14 percent more than the 4.62 million hatched the previous December. Cumulative egg-type hatch for January through December 2004 was 62.2 million chicks, up 16 percent from the 53.4 million in 2003. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 14.1 million during December 2004, 5 percent more than the 13.4 million the previous year. Cumulative broiler-type hatch for 2002 was 157.8 million, up 5 percent from the broiler-type hatch in 2003.

United States' egg production totaled 7.70 billion during December 2004, up 2 percent from last year. The total number of layers during December 2004 averaged 345 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Egg production per 100 layers was 2,235 eggs, compared to 2,223 eggs in December 2003.

Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during December totaled 37.0 million, up 10 percent from December 2003. Broiler-type hatch totaled 793 million, up 2 percent from December of the previous year. There were 22.2 million turkey poults placed during December 2004 in the United States, down 5 percent from the same month one year ago. The turkey eggs in incubators on January 1, 2005, totaled 28.2 million, 1 percent below a year earlier.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, DEC 2004

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod .	Mil. Lbs.	102.9	3,931
Cattle	Thous. Hd.	69.4	2,691
	Mil. Lbs. Live	82.0	3,411
Calves	Thous. Hd.	16.4	75
	Mil. Lbs. Live	6.0	25
Hogs	Thous. Hd.	286.0	9,250
	Mil. Lbs. Live	69.2	2,497
Sheep & Lambs	Thous. Hd.	5.6	242
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.5	34

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in Pennsylvania during December 2004 totaled 102.9 million pounds, down 7 percent from December 2003. Beef production, at 82.0 million pounds live weight, was down 20 percent from December 2003. Total head slaughtered was 69,400, down 11,700 head from 2003, and live weight averaged 1,181 pounds, a decrease of 90 pounds. Veal production was 6.0 million pounds live weight, down 5 percent. Calf slaughter of 16,400 head was down 15 percent, and average live weight increased 39 pounds to 363 pounds. Pork production was 69.2 million pounds live weight, down 3 percent from 2003. Total head slaughtered was 286,000, an increase of 4,500 from last year. Live weight averaged 242 pounds, an decrease of 11 pounds. Lamb and mutton production was 485,000 pounds live weight, down 28 percent from the previous year. The number slaughtered was 5,600, down 10 percent from the previous year. The average live weight decreased 11 pounds to 242 pounds.

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